

## Message Text

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ACTION SY-07

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FM AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7176

C O N F I D E N T I A L BUENOS AIRES 4966

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ASEC, AR

SUBJECT: TERRORISM THREAT, BA

1. ON JULY 5, 1974, RSOS (BECKETT & BOYLE) MET WITH AMB MOLINA-SALAS, GOA MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS. THE PURPOSE OF THE MEETING WAS A ROUTINE DISCUSSION OF REQUIREMENTS SURROUNDING THE ASSIGNMENT OF PROVINCIAL POLICE TO HOMES OF HI-TARGET US EMB PERSONNEL FOR PROTECTION. DURING THE COURSE OF THE DISCUSSION THE AMB REVEALED THE FOLLOWING:

A. HE STATED THAT THE POLITICAL ENVIRONMENT WITHIN ARGENTINA WAS CRITICAL AT THIS TIME AND THAT THE U.S. EMB SHOULD KEEP ALL OF ITS SECURITY FORCES ON MAXIMUM ALERT.

B. HE ADVISED THAT CONTACT EXISTED BETWEEN PALESTINIAN TERRORIST ELEMENTS AND THE ERP. THAT THE PALESTINIANS WERE KNOWN TO BE SUPPLYING THE ERP WITH ARMS TO INCLUDE ROCKETS. SOME OF THE ROCKETS SUPPLIED ARE OF THE FOLD-UP TYPE WHICH COULD BE CARRIED IN A SUITCASE. LAW ENFORCEMENT ELEMENTS OF THE ARGENTINE GOVERNMENT HAD LOCATED SOME OF THE ARMS STORAGE AREAS BUT NOT ALL OF THEM.

C. HE FURTHER ADVISED THAT INFORMATION AVAILABLE TO HIM INDICATED A REIGN OF TERRORISM WOULD BE STARTED IN ARGENTINA. THAT AMONG THE TARGETS OF THE TERRORISTS WOULD BE AMERICAN DIPLOMATIC PERSONNEL, THE JEWISH COMMUNITY AND SYNAGOGUES. THE PURPOSE OF THIS REIGN OF TERRORISM BY THE ERP WOULD BE TO BRING DOWN THE EXISTING ARGENTINE GOVERNMENT. THE DESTRUCTION OF THE GOVERNMENT WOULD BE BROUGHT ABOUT BY CAUSING A MILITARY COUP. THE COUP WOULD BE FELT TO BE NECESSARY ON THE PART OF THE ARMY BECAUSE THE MULTIPLICITY OF THE TERRORIST ACTIVITIES WOULD INDICATE THAT THE INCUMBENT GOVERNMENT COULD

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NOT DEAL WITH THE SITUATION.

D. THE ACTIONS OF THE TERRORISTS IN BRINGING ABOUT THE COUP AND MILITARY TAKE OVER WOULD THEN SERVE THE PURPOSE OF THE TERRORISTS AND THEIR LEFTWING ELEMENTS. ONCE THE MILITARY WAS IN POWER THE LEFTWING ELEMENTS WOULD THEN ATTEMPT TO GAIN THE SUPPORT OF THE PEOPLE BY ALLUDING TO THE SEVERITY OF THE MILITARY IN ADMINISTERING NATIONAL AFFAIRS AND POLICE ACTIONS.

E. MOLINA-SALAS STATED THAT THE PROJECTED ACTION WHICH HE HAD DESCRIBED HAD BEEN EXPLAINED TO HIM BY CONTACTS OF HIS KNOWN TO BE OR BELIEVED TO BE MEMBERS OF THE ERP.

F. HE ALSO REITERATED SEVERAL TIMES THAT THE SECURITY ELEMENTS OF THE AMERICAN EMBASSY SHOULD BE KEPT AT A PEAK ALERT FOR AT LEAST THE NEXT MONTH.

2. RSO COMMENT: THE RSO DISCUSSED THE ABOVE IN DETAIL WITH THE AMBASSADOR AND APPROPRIATE MEMBERS OF THE EMBASSY INTELLIGENCE COMMUNITY. THE CONSENSUS IS THAT, WHILE WE CANNOT IGNORE MOLINA-SALAS' INFORMATION (HE IS KNOWN TO US AS A SERIOUS AND FRIENDLY INDIVIDUAL), THE INFORMATION APPEARS TO BE MORE THE PERSONAL PROJECTIONS OF MOLINA-SALAS THAN FACTUAL INFORMATION. WE CANNOT HELP BUT DOUBT THAT MOLINA-SALAS HAS DIRECT CONTACT WITH AN ERP MEMBER. WE SURMISE THAT MOLINA-SALAS HAS AN ACQUAINTANCE WHOM HE SUSPECTS TO BE AN ERP MEMBER AND WHO IN TALKING WITH MOLINA-SALAS STATED HIS FEELINGS WHICH ARE OUTLINED ABOVE. THE RSO PLANS TO MEET AGAIN ON 10 JULY AND WILL ATTEMPT TO DIPLOMATICALLY PROBE MOLINA-SALAS AS TO HIS SOURCING.

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